



# Office of Councilmember Nora Campos District Five- East San Jose



NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



## Building a Strong Community, One Neighborhood at a Time

On October 27, residents from Story Road and McGinness Avenue came together to form the Ryan Neighborhood Association. My office spearheaded this effort with the help from community members, Ryan Elementary School staff and the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) staff. I would like to acknowledge and thank Principal Douglas Paganelli for his support and participation in forming the neighborhood association.

The first meeting gave the community an opportunity to share their visions, concerns and recommendations for making their neighborhood safer and improving the quality of life in the Ryan neighborhood. Several issues were raised related to traffic, public safety, lighting improvements and recreational opportunities. My office will be working with SNI staff to incorporate these issues into the East Valley/680 Neighborhood Action Coalition Top Ten priority list. The Top Ten priority list is composed of projects identified by the community as important steps toward improving their quality of life. Some of the projects identified are capital projects that can be funded through the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San José, while others will require collaborating with the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District and other agencies to enhance community facilities and programs in the neighborhood.

In order to have a successful neighborhood association, community participation and commitment is important. As a member of a neighborhood association you have the opportunity to advocate for resources, apply for grants for community events or projects, and take back your neighborhood! I challenge you to participate in your association and bring your neighbors with you to the next meeting in your neighborhood.



For more information on how you can start or join a neighborhood association in your neighborhood, please contact Javier González in my office at (408) 535-4905.

## Public Intoxication Arrests Raise Concerns

On Sunday, October 19, 2008, the San Jose Mercury News published an article about public intoxication arrests in the City of San José. The story revealed that in 2007, Latinos were arrested for public intoxication at a much higher rate than any other ethnicity in the city. The article also stated that the San José Police Department arrested significantly more people for public intoxication than any other major city in California. These issues have raised serious concerns.

I do not believe that our city should tolerate individuals who are drunk in public and pose a danger to themselves or others. We need to ensure, however, that the rights of these individuals are not violated due to a broad interpretation of the state law. I support amending the state law, and have discussed supporting a bill to include objective criteria with our local state legislators.

It is important that the City works to restore trust between our communities and the police department. To begin this dialogue, I reached out to Mayor Reed and requested a public hearing at a City Council meeting to listen to the community's concerns and recommendations. **The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.** This is the time for the community to voice their concerns and provide feedback to the City Council.



Councilmember Nora Campos • City of San José

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## PG&E Energy Partners Program

Pacific Gas and Electric Energy Partners Program is providing qualified low-income customers with FREE weatherization measures and energy-efficient appliances to reduce gas and electricity usage. Some examples of the measures Energy Partners provide are: attic insulation, door replacement, door weather-stripping, caulking and minor home repairs. Also, they replace the following appliances for qualified customers: refrigerator, room air conditioner and evaporative cooler.



The process involves three basic steps for every job:

- **Education and Assessment** – PG&E certified contractor (Energy Specialist) visits the customer at the customer's home to qualify the customer for the program. The contractor also uses this visit to educate the customer on how to save energy and assess the residence for weatherization measures.
- **Measure installation and delivery** – A PG&E certified contractor (Weatherization Specialist) crew visits the residence again to install feasible measures planned by the Energy Specialist.
- **Inspections** – Safety is PG&E's number one concern. PG&E's Central Inspection Program inspects selected residences after measures are installed. Natural gas appliance safety inspections may also be performed by the contractor or the CIP inspector.

To find out more about this program or find out if you qualify, please contact PG&E's Smarter Energy Line at (800) 933-9555 or <http://www.pge.com/energypartners/>.



## Make A Difference Daffodil Planting a Success

On October 25, 2008, San Jose Job Corps volunteers and the City of San José's Adopt-A-Park program joined the Council District Five office at the Hank Lopez Senior Center to celebrate *Make A Difference Day*. This event, created by USA Weekend Magazine, is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of October and is the country's largest day of volunteerism. Our volunteers planted 250 daffodil and native bulbs along the Hank Lopez Community Center's main entrance pathway and sidewalk. As the daffodils blossom next March, we can appreciate their beauty and the efforts of all those who participated in the planting.

If you are interested in organizing a tree or daffodil planting event in your neighborhood, please contact Vanessa Flores in my office at (408) 535-4944 or [vanessa.flores@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:vanessa.flores@sanjoseca.gov).

## Code Enforcement Tips

**Please remember to call Code Enforcement at (408) 277-4528 to report issues such as:**

- Blight on private properties (items in front yard, graffiti, etc.)
- Inoperable and abandoned vehicles on private property
- Vehicles parked on the lawn
- Signs, including signs in public right-of-way and signs without permits
- Solid Waste (inadequate service, early set-out of containers, illegal dumping)

**San Jose City Hall  
will be closed on the  
following dates:**

### Veterans Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008



### Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008

Friday, Nov. 28, 2008



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If you would like to receive District Five updates, please contact [javier.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:javier.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov) to be added to the listserv.